



# Christian Women's Job Corps of Middle Tennessee

*“A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out”*

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## MEET OUR NEW STAFF

We have one more great addition to the Christian Women's Job Corps staff, Anne Calton, Director of Development. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience. She has been working in development for 21 years: 12 years in educational fundraising and 9 years working for non-profits. Her talents and abilities in the area of development have already become an asset to Christian Women's Job Corps of Middle TN.

When asked why she wanted to serve in this ministry she responded, "I was drawn to the holistic approach of helping women gain job and life skills through classes, mentoring, and Bible study. My faith in Jesus Christ and my supportive community have helped me with decisions and trials. CWJC offers this to women; compassionate people, resources, tools, and a faith they can draw upon throughout their lives."

The summer semester of CWJC of Middle TN Nashville Satellite began with many staff changes. On May 30, 2008 Daphne Mack-Sikes gave birth to a handsome healthy son, Kendal. She has been enjoying her maternity leave with her son and girls and will return as Office Assistant/Receptionist. Dr. Torji Smith joined our staff the first of June as our interim Office Assistant/receptionist and will remain with us through August 1. She has been a blessing to our ministry.

Two other new staff blessed the women and the summer ministry; Lynda Burman, Interim Nashville Satellite Coordinator and Amanda Davidson, Summer Missionary. Lynda has been wonderful in coordinating the summer classes and volunteers. Amanda has coordinated our children's summer program. She has also assisted us with ongoing ministry projects. I have thanked God each day for these four women of God who are serving along side me in ministry.

# From the Desk of the Executive Director

*"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."* As I reflect on these words of Martin Luther King Jr., they describe my experience and those of volunteers and staff this last semester through the ministry of CWJC of Middle TN.

Economic changes, increased cost of living, and gas prices has impacted both our volunteers and participants. The bus route, which Sue rides to classes twice a week, has been discontinued. How will she now attend GED class? Mary and Alice have taken on a second job to pay their rent and other monthly expenses. With full time employment and additional part time employment, will they have time or energy to study for their GED? Sara fears money for gas to attend classes will not be available. How will she be able to move from employment in a restaurant to an office setting if she cannot learn computer skills? Since we are all apart of the same "garment of destiny" how can we respond to these new challenges and continue to serve the community of poverty in Middle TN?

Sue was leaving her employment the very afternoon she had learned that her bus route had been discontinued. As she was walking out of the building, she met a volunteer of CWJC who was also employed in the same location. Sue told her of the circumstances and her prayer to find a solution. The volunteer responded, " I would be happy to give you a ride twice a week "

God called this volunteer to assist Sue in overcoming her barriers. He called the volunteer to answer the prayer of this working poor woman. Join me in listening for God's call to assist women in poverty to overcome the challenges they are all facing due to rising cost of food and fuel. As you listen He will speak and your response will be an answer to their prayer

Will we see these economic changes as obstacles to overcome or barriers which prevent us from serving the poor? Will we consider the possibility of volunteering to be a mentor or childcare teacher to the 65 women and their children on our waiting list? Would God be calling us to provide transportation with church vans or donation of gas cards? Would staff meetings on Skype or setting up online computer classes overcome transportation issues?

Without a GED or increased job skills these women will never obtain employment with living wages. They are caught, as my mom would say, "between a rock and a hard place". These women are continuously prevented, by lack of income in present employment, from obtaining education and job skill for employment with increased wages. They often must choose between providing for the month expenses or securing an education and job skills. CWJC of Middle TN was created, to provide women a path of release from this impossible situation.

God called the ministry of CWJC of Middle TN to serve the poor and those in poverty no matter the challenges or circumstances in our lives. I plan to lead the ministry in developing and implementing strategies to overcome the barriers to obtaining transformation. Thank you for those of you who have heard God's call and responded. The women enrolled are encouraged, hopeful and succeeding because of you! Others of you, God may be calling to join us in ministry to bring His will for these women to reality. Some of you may know others you can invite to join us in this exciting endeavor.

The possibilities for solutions to overcome these barriers are unlimited! Our community has the resources in supplies and volunteers to continue to answer the gospel imperative to serve the 77,852 persons living in poverty in Middle TN. Listen, respond, and provide " the potential for transformation of body, mind, heart, and spirit to the working poor" through a "inescapable network of mutuality" and ministry CWJC of Middle TN.

"A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out"

Rebekah Sumrall

# NASHVILLE SATELLITE

Our precious women enrolled in the Nashville Satellite have been faithful and busy learning this summer. Join us in prayers for three women that are going to take their GED on July 26th. These women have been studying and working hard. Pray for their success! The passing of this test will be life changing for them. Two of the women want to attend nursing school and one wants to enroll in college to obtain a degree in Christian Leadership. Obtaining their GED is the next step toward their goal and to graduate from CWJC in August.

Four other women enrolled in the Nashville Satellite will be graduating in August. Three are seeking employment with our business partners and one will be attending college to obtain a degree in forensic science. We are so thankful for business partnerships with HCA, and Questar Staffing as they provide opportunities for employment for our graduates.

One of the many great things about the ministry of Christian Women's Job Corps is that we introduce women to things they would otherwise never hear about. During our weekly bible study at the Nashville satellite we discussed the story of Joseph and Pontiphar's wife. None of the 6 women in bible study knew the story of Joseph. They were amazed at the story and wanted to read more in the scripture. The study of Joseph has opened interest in learning about other famous people and prophets in the scripture and demonstrate.

As Christians we want to meet person unacquainted with the stories of the Bible. As they learn the stories they read of the love of our Lord for people then and now. Introducing our women to these stories let them see God's word is interesting, like real life, and can show us how God wants us to deal with temptations and struggles. God is using the ministry of CWJC to identify and discover the unreached and unchurched of our community.

Our volunteers for the summer have been consistent and faithful. We are so thankful for them. Rob, Rita, Carrie, Don, Jessica, Al, Gloria, Chante, Michelle, Kayle, Heather, Ann, Mary Jo, Betty, Jamie, Cassandra, Kara, Misty, Martha, Marilyn, the two Christy's, and Questar Staffing.

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# MADISON SATELLITE

There have been some great things happening at the Madison Site!!! GOD IS AT WORK!! It is truly wonderful that our women are starting to experience the amazing things that can happen as a result of loving Christians encouraging, motivating, dedicating and praying for them. Let me share with you the miracles that have happened.

- One woman came into the program. She has a son and was living with a family member. Every week she asked for prayer to find a new home for her and her son and job to support them. She is now working at a new job and has a new apartment that she is renting. She was then frustrated with work schedule because her employer would not let her off to come to class consistently. That was finally worked out, she has completed computer classes, and will start working towards getting her GED this fall.
- Another woman in our program was struggling with parenting, addiction, depression, and other family problems. She had to take a semester off from classes to receive some of the help she needed. She is now back: clean and sober, her children are doing better, she is happy, and managing her life so well.
- We have another woman ready to take her GED on June 26th. She did a great job on her practice test and is expected to pass her GED test. She then wants to go onto mortuary school.

GOD IS SO GOOD! These women would have never believed their lives would look like this 6 months ago. Isn't it amazing how God can turn the ashes of our life into beauty?!?! Overall we have had 4 women get new jobs, 2 find more support for recovery, 4 find better housing, 1 new baby, 1 new driver's license, 1 woman get her credit totally restored, 1 family get baptized, 1 family join a church, and I am sure there is more on the way. Never under-estimate the transforming power of God.

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY SATELLITE

The Williamson County Satellite has had a great summer. So many great things are happening. Our women are progressing and learning so much. Two of our women have taken the GED, and they are only a couple of points away from passing. This is an enormous accomplishment for them. We are so proud of them, and pray for their success the next time they go to take the test.

Our women are not just improving their use of the English Language, but they are also growing in their faith. Each week in bible study the women are learning more and more about Christ. They are so excited to see that Christ not only loves them with all of His heart, but that He actually has a plan for their lives. Many of the women have asked how to discover this plan, and we have shared that through prayer and getting to know Christ he will reveal it to them. Please pray for this revelation in all of our women's lives. This past semester we have had 4 women come to Christ during Bible Study. Pray they will enjoy their new Christian journey.

After a successful summer, we are looking forward to our semester break and starting back in the fall. We are breaking from August 1<sup>st</sup> until September 9<sup>th</sup>.

In the fall, we are going to continue teaching ESL classes. We have purchased new curriculum that will allow us to evaluate and more easily determine the progress of our women's learning. We are also adding Job Skill and Life Skill Classes. In Job Skills we are teaching from the "Jobs for Life" curriculum. This covers such topics as: interviewing, professionalism, resume writing, and job searching. It also incorporates how the bible guides our attitude towards employment. In Life skills we will be addressing such issues as: communication, goal setting, and decision making.

Please continue to pray for us as we embark upon a new semester that will bring new curriculum, new classes, and new women. We pray for God's hand to move just as it has these past semesters!

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# Ministry Needs

***Would you like to become a part of this great ministry?  
WE NEED YOU!!!***

All three sites are in need of more volunteers in all areas. Listed below you will find the biggest needs that each site has. If you would like to volunteer with a specific site please contact the appropriate Satellite Coordinator, they will be thrilled to hear from you!

## Nashville Site Needs

- 10 Mentors
- **Childcare Volunteers** for the upcoming Fall Semester
- **GED Tutors** for Thursday nights in English and Math, and for the upcoming Fall Semester
- 15 Mentors
- 1 **Childcare Coordinator**
- 4 **Job and Life Skill Teachers**
- 2 **GED Tutors** to serve on Thursdays
- 5 **Youth Groups** to serve in childcare 2 times each semester

## Madison Site Needs

- 20 Mentors
- 10 **Childcare Volunteers** to serve 2 times a month
- 5 **GED Tutors** to serve 2 times a month
- 8 **Job & Life Skill Teachers** to teach 2 times each semester
- 1 **Childcare Coordinator**
- 2 **Computer Teachers** to serve 2 times a month
- 5 **Youth Groups** to serve in childcare 2 times each semester
- 1 **Financial Management Teacher**

## Williamson Co. Site Needs

- 10 Mentors
- 1 **ESL teacher** to teach Tuesday and/or Thursday night
- 1 **Life Skill Class Coordinator**
- 3 **Life skill Teachers** to teach Tuesday and/or Thursday morning and nights.
- 3 **Job Skill Teachers** to teach Tuesday and/or Thursday morning and nights.
- 5 **Childcare Volunteers** to serve on Tuesday and/or Thursday for both day and night classes

**If you are unable to give of your time,  
we would love to have any of the following items donated.**

Childcare snacks and drinks, coffee, cream, sugar, copy paper, spiral note books, toilet paper, paper towels, #10 envelopes, Kleenex, umbrellas, pens, pencils, lined paper, binders, filing cabinets, storage bins, disposable cups, plates, and silverware, children's board games, flashcards, children's books, markers, highlighters, post-it notes, paper clips.

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The Christians Women's Job Corps of Middle Tennessee is one ministry in three locations: Nashville, Madison, and Williamson County. It has been serving low-income women in the greater Nashville community for over 10 years. Its mission is to provide potential for transformation of mind, body, and spirit of the participants and the volunteers who serve them. We are supported by grants, churches, individual donors, and most importantly prayers. Without God's hand in our ministry we would not be the able to serve the women we have nor change the lives we have seen transform.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Mentor Training

August 9, 2008  
9:00 am — 1:00 pm  
Madison Church Of Christ  
Madison, TN

### Graduation

August 23, 2008  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
First Baptist Church  
Downtown Nashville

### Nashville Satellite

Office Closed  
August 4th - 6th

### Semester Breaks

Nashville Satellite  
August 1st - September 8th

Williamson Satellite  
August 1st - September 8th

Madison Satellite  
August 25th - September 7th

### Madison Satellite

Volunteer Training  
July 21, 2008  
6:30 pm—7:30 pm  
Madison Church of Christ